

## **Nevada Test Site**

### **Possible Worker Exposures**

Workers constructing underground nuclear weapons testing areas were exposed to silica dust and asbestos, especially while excavating the tunnels where the tests were conducted. Workers whose jobs took them into the test areas to evaluate conditions soon after weapons tests faced the possibility of radiation exposure. Workers were also often exposed to various chemicals and solvents.

### **Public Meeting on Worker Health and Benefits**

A public meeting with Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels was held on February 25, 2000, in North Las Vegas, Nevada. A transcript from the meeting attended by about 275 is available at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits/meetings/meetings.html>.

### **Important Contact Information**

U.S. Department of Energy Workers' Compensation Helpline (toll-free): **877-447-9756**

U.S. Department of Energy Benefits Website: <http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits>

### **Site Background**

From 1951-1958 the Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site began its extensive history of nuclear weapons tests with 100 atmospheric tests. Between 1961-1992, 828 underground tests were conducted at the site. Since the 1992 moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, many other programs have begun at the Nevada Test Site, including hazardous chemical spill testing, emergency response training, conventional weapons testing, waste management and environmental technology studies. The Nevada Test Site is located on 1,375 square miles of remote land in southern Nevada, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. The site is surrounded by thousands of additional acres of land that create an unpopulated area of some 5,470 square miles.

Management and Operating Contractor:	Bechtel Nevada
Number of current contractor employees:	2,700 (estimated)
Historical number of contractor employees:	74,000 (estimated)